

Members

Sen. Marvin Riegsecker, Chairperson  
Sen. Rose Antich-Carr  
Rep. Sheila Klinker  
Rep. Robert Alderman  
Suda Hopkins  
Sally Lowery  
Ervin Picha  
Joanne Warner  
Thomas Van Meter  
Betty Williams  
Sylvia Marie Brantley  
Christopher Durcholz



# INDIANA COMMISSION ON MENTAL RETARDATION AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

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## MEETING MINUTES<sup>1</sup>

Meeting Date: July 30, 2003  
Meeting Time: 1:30 P.M.  
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington  
St., Room 233  
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana  
Meeting Number: 1

**Members Present:** Sen. Marvin Riegsecker, Chairperson; Sen. Rose Antich-Carr;  
Rep. Sheila Klinker; Rep. Robert Alderman; Suda Hopkins;  
Ervin Picha; Joanne Warner; Thomas Van Meter; Betty  
Williams; Sylvia Marie Brantley; Christopher Durcholz.

**Members Absent:** Sally Lowery.

### I. Introductions

Senator Riegsecker called the meeting to order at 1:45 P.M. After the members introduced themselves, Senator Riegsecker explained that the Legislative Council had given the Commission no additional topics to study this interim.

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<sup>1</sup> Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.ai.org/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

## **II. Updates by Mr. Steve Cook, Director of the Division of Disability, Aging, and Rehabilitative Services, Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA)**

**(a) Status of Muscatatuck:** Mr. Cook provided the members with written testimony concerning the status of closure proceedings for Muscatatuck State Developmental Center. (Exhibit 1) Mr. Cook's testimony covered legislation concerning the closure of Muscatatuck, litigation, and client transition information.

Representative Klinker asked why the 2003 Budget Bill included a provision which removed the requirement that a guardian must approve any transfer made out of Muscatatuck. Mr. Cook responded that the law was not amended at the request of FSSA. When discussing the number of clients seeking to begin transition procedures, Mr. Cook indicated that the removal of that requirement had likely provided the stimulus for some clients and their families to begin the transition process.

In answer to questions, Mr. Cook reported that there had been training programs for staff who would lose their jobs because of the closure. He said he would provide members with information on the status of employees who had been laid off due to the impending closure of Muscatatuck. Mr. Cook provided the members with a family follow-up survey on individuals who left in 2001 and 2002. (Exhibit 2) In answer to a question, Mr. Cook stated that there had been no problem with identifying services for persons who have left Muscatatuck. Mr. Cook reported that there is a group looking into alternate uses for the facilities at Muscatatuck. He also described the procedures for investigating the deaths of persons who were in the transition process. In addition to the committee which reviews all deaths in facilities, FSSA hired a consultant to review deaths of persons in transition situations. The Commission discussed the issues related to the fact that parents of clients were aging and moving out of the area and the impact that had on the placement of persons leaving Muscatatuck.

**(b) DD Waiver:** Mr. Cook introduced Ms. Kristen Schunk, Director of Fiscal Services for the Division of Disability, Aging and Rehabilitative Services, to discuss the status of the support services waiver. (pages 4 and 5 of Exhibit 1.)

Mr. Christopher Durcholz explained that his family had trouble with the notification problems Ms. Schunk described in her testimony. In response to questions about how long it would take to clear up the problem, Ms. Schunk stated that the current plan is to make sure all persons receiving services under the Social Services Block Grant are converted to receiving services under the waiver. After the conversion is complete, new enrollees will be served as slots are available.

## **III. Discussion of Issues to Study**

**(a) Sylvia Brantley:** Ms. Brantley explained a problem her son was having with the criminal justice system. The Commission will be considering issues with the criminal justice system this summer.

**(b) Kim Dodson, the ARC of Indiana:** Ms. Dodson provided the members with information concerning issues relating to aging families of persons with developmental disabilities. (Exhibit 3) She suggested that the commission study three issues:

- (1) Review the 317 Plan to determine if it needs to be refined or changed in any way, particularly relating to the aging of care givers;
- (2) Review the progress made with providing services for those dually diagnosed with developmental disabilities and mental illness; and

(3) Review the way persons with developmental disabilities interact with the criminal justice system. Ms. Dodson indicated that Indiana Protection and Advocacy Services has been studying this and will be a good resource in this area.

**(c) Costa Miller, Indiana Association of Rehabilitation Facilities:** Mr. Miller wanted the Commission to study:

- (1) Updating the 317 plan dealing with the dually diagnosed;
- (2) Establishing a position within FSSA for a staff person to coordinate services to the dually diagnosed; and
- (3) Reconstituting the Community Residential Facilities Council so that it is responsible to FSSA instead of the Governor.

**(d) Steve Cook, FSSA:** Mr. Cook suggested that the Commission study (page 6 of Exhibit 1):

- (1) Updating the 317 plan including hearing about the new quality assurance system recently established within FSSA; and
- (2) Reviewing, as part of the 317 update, the growth of home and community based services over the last biennium.

**(e) Commission Suggestions:** Mr. Ervin Picha wanted an update on First Steps.

**IV. Future Meetings:** There will be three additional meetings for the following purposes:

- (1) Update on the 317 plan, including the new quality assurance system, and update on First Steps;
- (2) Consider criminal justice issues; and
- (3) Consider bill drafts.

The next meeting will be held on August 26, at 1:30 P.M., in Room 130 of the State House. At that meeting the Commission will discuss updating the 317 plan and First Steps.

**V. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 P.M.